

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 01776 091519Z

60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 FRB-03 ITC-01 SIL-01 LAB-04

FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 INT-05 AID-05 CIEP-01 STR-04

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /117 W

----- 075264

R 091430Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9454

USDEL MTN GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 1776

E.O. 11652: /A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, TD

SUBJECT: TROPICAL PRODUCTS NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) STATE 141388 (NOTL), B) MTN GENEVA 3229 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF MET WITH GEORGE RAMPERSAD, SPECIAL ADVISER TO TRINIDAD'S MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, AND ANOTHER OFFICIAL FROM THAT MINISTRY JULY 2 TO DISCUSS TROPICAL PRODUCTS NEGOTIATIONS AND STATUS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. BOTH OFFICIALS WERE REASONABLY COGNIZANT OF STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND AWARE THAT USG IS PRESSING FOR RECIPROCAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY LDC'S. EMBOFF WENT OVER AND LEFT WITH THEM WRITTEN STATEMENT OF REATIONALE BEHIND USG POSITION, BASED UPON PARA 8 REF (A). REMPERSAD EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR U.S. POSITION BUT WAS UNSURE IF TRINIDAD

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PAGE 02 PORT O 01776 091519Z

MTN REPRESENTATIVES COULD OR WOULD RAISE THEIR VOICE

AGAINST CONCERTED LDC PRESSURE TO RESIST MAKING CONCESSIONS IN THIS FIRST PHASE OF THE MTN.

2. WITH REGARD TO PARTICULAR CONCESSIONS REQUESTED FROM TRINIDAD (REF B). RAMPERSAD POINTED OUT THAT CARIBBEAN COMMON MARKET (CARICOM) HAS ADOPTED A COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF AND HE WONDERED IF THE US HAD ALSO REQUESTED DUTY REDUCTIONS AS CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER CARICOM MEMBERS. HE CLAIMED IT WOULD BE UNFAIR FOR THE US TO REQUEST FOUR DUTY CONCESSIONS FROM TRINIDAD, THEN FOUR DIFFERENT ONES FROM JAMAICA, BARBADOS, GUYANA, ETC. WHEN ANY SUCH CONCESSIONS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED ON AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD BASIS BY ALL CARICOM MEMBERS. EMBOFF COMMENTED THAT JAMAICA IS REPRESENTED AT MTN, AND THAT PRESUMABLY THE JAMAICAN AND TRINIDADIAN DELEGATIONS CONSULT ON SUCH MATTERS, BUT AGREED TO SEEK GUIDANCE FROM DEPT, OR USDEL MTN ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. ALTHOUGH TRINIDADIAN OFFICIALS WERE RELUCTANT TO STATE WHAT IS PRECISE STATUS OF TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT'S CONSIDERATION OF US REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS IN TP NEGOTIATIONS, EMBOFF RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT MATTER IS NOW UNDER DISCUSSION, BOTH WITHIN MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AND WITH TRINIDAD'S CARICOM PARTNERS.

4. COMMENT: EMBOFF GAINED IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS LITTLE DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN TRINIDAD MTN DELEGATE LIVINGSTON CUMBERBATCH AND TRADE OFFICIALS IN MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE. LOCAL OFFICIALS HAD RECEIVED COPIES OF US TP OFFER LIST AND TP REQUEST LIST, BUT ACTED AS THOUGH THESE LISTS HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED TO TRINIDAD WITHOUT COMMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, EMBASSY NOTES THAT NEITHER TRADE OFFICERS NOR ANY SENIOR OFFICIAL FROM PORT OF SPAIN PARTICIPATED IN UNCTAD IV; THUS THERE WAS NO OPPORTUNITY FOR CUMBERBATCH TO CONSULT AS HE WAS REPORTEDLY PLANNING TO (REF B).

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS FROM DEPT. OR USDEL MTN REGARDING CONTRIBUTIONS REQUESTED FROM OTHER CARICOM MEMBERS AND WHETHER OUR REQUESTS HAVE TAKEN THE COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF INTO CONSIDERATION.

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PAGE 03 PORT O 01776 091519Z

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NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TROPICAL PRODUCTS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Film Number:** D760266-0148  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 141388  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** TROPICAL PRODUCTS NEGOTIATIONS  
**TAGS:** ETRD, TD, MTN  
**To:** STATE MTN GENEVA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006